

News Release
U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island



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Providence man is sentenced for credit card scam

Eddie Lee bilked a 7-11 store out of \$50,000 through stolen card numbers

A federal judge today sentenced **Eddie Lee**, 45, of Providence, to 41 months in prison for a credit card scheme that cost one 7-11 store in Providence more than \$50,000 in two months.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which Senior U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres imposed in U.S. District Court, Providence.

In August, Lee pleaded guilty to fraudulently using credit card accounts. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Lee H. Vilker said that the government could prove that, between September and November of 2005, Lee used stolen credit card numbers to make 227 transactions at the 7-11 store on Smith Street, Providence. The transactions totaled \$50,893, and were made with 75 different credit card accounts. For each transaction, the card number was manually entered into the credit card terminal rather than being swiped with a card.

Seekonk Police arrested Lee on November 30, 2005 on a charge of fraudulently using a credit card. A search of his car turned up a bag containing Dollar Rent-A-Car receipts and notes containing credit card numbers and other account information. A subsequent investigation by the U.S. Secret Service determined that Lee had made the transactions at the Providence 7-11 and that three late night shift clerks at the store had helped him. He fraudulently purchased an average of \$300 in merchandise on each occasion.

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The investigation also determined that Lee had worked for Dollar Rent-A-Car for a short period of time.

The 7-Eleven Corporation absorbed the loss caused by the scheme.

Lee has a long record of criminal convictions, dating back to 1984, when he was sentenced to 12 years in state prison for manslaughter. Judge Torres today sentenced him to the top end of the recommended sentencing range under federal sentencing guidelines.

Providence Police, Seekonk Police and the United States Secret Service investigated the credit card scan. Assistant U.S. Attorney Vilker prosecuted the case.

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